

~~SECRET~~

Approved For Release 2007/03/09 : CIA-RDP91T01172R000300370004-6

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CD/ED

OCI NO. 0083/55
COPY NO.

35

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
18 February 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)
SUBJECT: Afro-Asian Conference Developments

Nineteen countries have now either officially accepted their invitation to the Bandung conference or have definitely indicated an intention to do so.

Chou En-lai and Ho Chi Minh accepted for their respective regimes with considerable flourish. Their statements also reveal, to some extent, the line the Communists can be expected to pursue.

After praising the conference for being the first of its kind, Chou went on to say that it would "reflect the ever stronger desire of Asian and African countries to take their destinies into their own hands." He also declared that the conference offered a good opportunity to make it possible for countries with different social systems and governments to "coexist in peace." Ho similarly acclaimed the convening of the conference and said that it will help develop friendly relations among the participants on the basis of the so-called "five principles" of coexistence.

Meanwhile, organizational activities have been proceeding at a somewhat accelerated pace. According to Ruslan Abdulgani, secretary general of the Indonesian foreign ministry who is also serving in the same capacity for the conference secretariat, the membership of each delegation is to be limited to 20 of which 10 will be guests of the secretariat. He has also hinted that the sponsoring powers may insist that the various delegations be led either by the premier or foreign minister. If this should be the case, the Philippines might be somewhat embarrassed since it is planning to send Ambassador Romulo as its chief delegate. The problem is not unsurmountable, however, as the Philippines could send Foreign Secretary Garcia to Bandung for the opening ceremonies after which he could return to Manila leaving Romulo in charge.

The secretariat has also requested the various invites to submit suggestions for the agenda prior to 28 February. Abdulgani, however, has indicated that the conference itself

State Dept. review completed

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SEE REVERSE FOR DECLASSIFICATION ACTION

Approved For Release 2007/03/09 : CIA-RDP91T01172R000300370004-6

~~SECRET~~

Document No. 04
No Change In Class. ☐
☐ Declassified
Class. Changed To: TS S
Auth.: HR TC-2
Date: 15 Sept 78 By:

Document No. 04
No Change In Class. ☒
☐ Declassified
Class. Changed To: TS S
Auth.: HR TC-2
Date: 28 July 78
used 7/28/78

25X1

~~SECRET~~

Approved For Release 2007/03/09 : CIA-RDP91T01172R000300370004-6

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

will decide upon both agenda and procedural matters. Under the circumstances, there appears to be a good possibility that the secretariat will attempt to draw up a provisional agenda which would conform, as much as possible, to the purpose of the conference as originally announced by the Colombo powers.

25X1

[REDACTED] Burma and India are giving priority to cultural and economic matters, and are hopeful that controversial issues can be avoided. A high official of the Burmese foreign ministry, however, has stated that although the conference probably would not take a decisive stand, the Formosa problem will certainly be discussed in connection with the matter of "easing international tensions." He further expressed the hope that the Bandung meeting will be the first of similar annual meetings and that a permanent secretariat for the group would be established. This is the first time a responsible official has mentioned such a desire for a permanent organization. Heretofore, leaders of the Colombo powers have taken great pains to disavow any idea that they were interested in forming a "third bloc."

It is also safe to assume that India will be prepared to take up any international political issue that it is interested in at the time the meeting convenes. In this connection, one official of the Pakistani foreign office has indicated the possibility that such topics as West Irian, five principles, a UN seat for Communist China, criticism of the Manila pact and Chinese Nationalist forces in Burma may be considered.*

The American embassy in New Delhi reports that although Krishna Menon will probably be Nehru's chief adviser, other members of the Indian delegation--so far as it is known--are reasonable individuals. It is convinced, moreover, that Nehru would not welcome a Communist propaganda triumph, and recommends that the Indian premier be treated as a friend of the free world rather than a probable ally of the Communists. Nehru is expected to consider himself lucky if the conference does not degenerate into a "Donnybrook" and may well use his influence to prevent emphasis on such subjects as racialism. On the other hand, he would not be well-disposed toward a gratuitous attack 25X1 on the Communist Orbit.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Approved For Release 2007/03/09 : CIA-RDP91T01172R000300370004-6

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Approved For Release 2007/03/09 : CIA-RDP91T01172R000300370004-6

CONFIDENTIAL

The embassy feels, therefore, that the interests of the US can best be served by a calm, dignified exposition of free world principles by friendly countries--at least at the outset when the Communists are expected to simulate sweet reasonableness. At the same time, it believes that anti-Communist powder should be kept dry, ready to meet and repel any Communist assault.

HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON
Assistant Director,
Current Intelligence



25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

Approved For Release 2007/03/09 : CIA-RDP91T01172R000300370004-6

~~SECRET~~